(b) if so, whether under this agreement restrictions have been lifted on the number of airlines that can be carried between the two countries;

(c) whether the earlier agreement has been reframed after 50 years of its existence;

(d) if so, to what extent it will be different from the earlier one and to what extend it will be helpful for both; and

(e) whether by this agreement India has become the 67th Country to have open sky policy with the US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A revised Air Services Agreement between India and USA has been signed on 14th April, 2005 replacing the earlier agreement which was signed in 1956. The existing agreement itself permits either side to designate any number of airlines to operate air services between the two countries. This provision has been retained in the new agreement. The new agreement grants unlimited access to the designated airlines to any points of call in the territory of the other country as against four airports under the earlier agreement. Besides the revised agreement also removes all restrictions on exercise of 5th freedom traffic rights, code share rights and provides for greater operational flexibility. Removal of restrictions on points of call, code share rights and fifth freedom rights would provides for greater operational flexibility. Removal of restrictions on points of call, code share rights and fifth freedom rights would provide greater commercial opportunities to Indian carriers and would enable them to wean away traffic on India-USA routes from third country carriers.

(0 Government does not have any information in this regard.

Setting up of private flight Academy in Hosur (Bangalore)

2783. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indus Aviation Inc. In collaboration with Teneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) are setting up a private flight academy in Hosur (Bangalore);

(b) whether the Civil Aviation Ministry has accorded permission to the project; and

(c) if so, what are the courses offered to this trainees, methods of admission of pilots and the fees structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Independent Regulatory Authority for the Aviation Sector

2784.DR.VIJAYMALLYA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill for providing an independent Regulatory Authority for the aviation sector, on the lines of Telecom and Insurance sector;

(b) whether the recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee will be incorporated in the proposed Bill; and

(c) by when the comprehensive bill on aviation policy will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to set up in independent regulatory authority for the Airports. The suggestions made in the Naresh Chandra Committee Report are being taken into account.

(c) There is no proposal for introducing a bill on Aviation Policy

Purchase of Aircrafts for IA and Al

2785. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines and Air India are in shortage of aircrafts and not in a position to compete with the private operators;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to acquire some more aircrafts for 1A and AI;and